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No. 3

13th July, 1953

## COMMONWEALTH YOUTH CONFERENCE

LONDON - 9-10 June, 1953

Canberra University College Students' Association was represented at the Commonwealth Youth Conference in London by Elizabeth Courtney who was visiting England for the Coronation. She writes that the Conference as a whole was extremely well organized and she, personally, found it very interesting and informative. Socially, too, it was very bright and delegates were given an opportunity to meet many people from the different Commonwealth countries. The main social events were a ball, a reception at the House of Commons and a reception given by the Lord Mayor. The following is Elizabeth's report:-

"The Conference, which was organised by the British National Committee of the World Association of Youth (W.A.Y.) on behalf of the Commonwealth Youth Council, and sponsored by the Holborn Borough Council, was designed for members and leaders of youth and student organisations throughout the Commonwealth to meet and exchange views and to spotlight the needs both of their own groups and organisations and of youth in general. The keynote of the Conference was discussion rather than the passing of definite resolutions.

"There were four categories of delegates:

1. Members and youth leaders mandated to come to the Conference by W.A.Y.;
2. Members and youth leaders not in W.A.Y.;
3. Individual experts on education, social welfare, etc.;
4. Cross section of Commonwealth Youth Study Groups and students from overseas.

"Within the groups there were people from Australia, Bermuda, the Gold Coast, Kenya, Malaya, Malta, Sierra Leone, Nyasaland, Uganda, etc., representing organizations ranging from Young Farmers and Boy Scouts to University delegates and Youth Counselors.

"The Conference opened with messages of good luck from the Canberra University College, the Madras Teachers' College, organisations in British Guiana and South Africa and many others - followed by speeches by the Deputy Mayor of Holborn, Anthony Nutting, M.P., Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and J. G. Foster, Q.C., M.P., Under-Secretary for Commonwealth Relations, all of whom stressed the importance, and significance of the occasion as a means of planning for the future and of discussing youth problems. The main speaker on Tuesday morning was E. G. Seath, J.P., Secretary of the Bristol Youth Committee, who discussed "Commonwealth Youth Organizations - local and national". He stressed the value and importance of voluntary effort and cooperation in all youth clubs, the need for active cooperation of Universities and University Colleges with these clubs and the emphasis on Social Studies and Welfare in the Universities.

"The main part of the Conference consisted of group discussions. I attended the discussion on the Government in relation to Youth Organizations. The general conclusions reached were that the relations between Government and Youth Organizations varied considerably according to the country. In Great Britain and Australia, for instance, a good compromise had been reached and Youth Organisations worked independently under a stable government. In less developed parts of the Commonwealth, however, Youth Organizations were working for self-government in their own territories and in India, Malta and Nigeria youth organizations were very active in politics. The Indian delegate in particular stressed the need for active participation and representation of the 19-25 age group in politics. The representatives from Malaya, Sierra Leone and Jamaica, on the other hand, felt the role to be played by youth organizations was to promote friendly relations with the governments in their respective countries but to remain as independent as possible and not interfere in general Government policy. It was obvious that ideas of active participation varied from country to country according to the stability of the government concerned. It was considered finally, however, that Youth Organizations should try to be self-supporting and the Governments should seek the views of youth organizations through a coordinating body safeguarding national and minority groups.

"The main points from other discussion groups included the need for better and wiser understanding between youth groups through exchange of information, publicity and seminars and study groups. Discussions should take place in the vernacular language and there should be a wider knowledge of Commonwealth countries in Great Britain. Technical assistance and the advertising of W.A.Y. and the Youth Council by personal contact, travel and fastering of their ideas in each country was also necessary.

"Discussions continued along these lines on Wednesday when Walter Adams, Secretary of the Inter-University Council for Higher Education in the Colonies, made the point that there was a changing relationship within the Commonwealth. The leadership of Great Britain was giving way to member countries of the Commonwealth and the obligation was on organizations and individuals in each country to increase knowledge and development of that country in the Commonwealth as a whole. There should be cooperation and contact between groups in each country with similar interests, regardless of race or other differences.

"The conference closed with a Brains Trust which included C.J.M. Alport, M.P., Conservative Member for Colchester, Dr. J. Macalister-Brent, Educational Adviser, Christopher Mayhew, Labour M.P. for Woolwich East and Peter Abrahams, writer and broadcaster of South Africa.

"This was one of the most interesting parts of the Conference as more direct questions were asked on the subject of racial discrimination. These led to heated discussions and some clashes occurred between members of the Conference. Discussion centred around South Africa and Nigeria and such questions were raised as the fear of political implications on the part of the whites in South Africa and the subjective dimensions of the colour bar.

"The Conference ended, however, with the idea of the need for race harmony - not colour harmony"

FILM EVENING

A film evening is to be held in the Main Hall on July 18th. Programme details will be advertised on notice boards.

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Modern

NURSERY RHYME

(Sing to the tune of "Three Blind Mice")

I'VE HAD MEN!  
 I'VE HAD MEN!  
 See how they run,  
 When there's work to be done.  
 They think they know all there is to know,  
 They don't work at all - yet they rake in the dough,  
 It's time that they gave us poor girls a fair go -  
 I'VE HAD MEN!!

Anonette

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER

Recently I came across an article which gave, by way of a caricature, a description of different viewpoints characterising the different nations of the world. The article described an imaginary international conference, at which the delegates from different countries were asked to write a report on the subject "The Elephant", with results something like this:

The Russian delegate wrote under the heading: "The Elephant - Does It Exist?"

The French delegate: "The Love Life of an Elephant"

The German delegate: Three volumes of 1,000 pages each entitled "An Introduction to the Description of an Elephant"

The British delegate: "Elephant Hunting under the British Flag"

The American delegate: "How to make Bigger and Better Elephants"

The Polish delegate: "The Elephant and the Polish Corridor"

To bring the list more up-to-date, we could now add a few more, such as -

The Indian delegate: "U.N. Intervention urged in Problem of Elephant Exploitation"

The South African delegate: "Apartheid in the Elephant Herd"

The Australian delegate: "Union Reaction to Introduction of Elephant Labour"

The Japanese delegate: "Honourable Elephant - a Democratic Animal".

So we could go on and on giving each nation a subject typifying its own pet problem or way of looking at things.

But behind the caricature there lies a deep significance. How can we hope to ever attain a situation where nations discuss world problems without bias or self-interest? The differences of outlook don't seem very significant on the subject of elephants, but they take on major proportions when it comes to abstract subjects. If, for instance, the subject "peace" were substituted, just how would each nation be influenced by its own interests? Can we discuss such subjects with regard to the world or only with regard to ourselves?

The position is made more hopeless by each nation's conviction that the solution lies in its own outlook being universally adopted, and by its continual efforts to bring about this state of affairs. Hence Britain has tried to force a British way of life on to countries of a totally different make-up, without much success as is now apparent; France is experiencing failure in similar attempts in South East Asia; and Japan is struggling to swallow American democracy forced on to her after the war.

Russia offers the most subtle solution in communism. With a universal social and economic order, with no environmental differences in the way of customs, traditions, religions, and with all nations of the world united under a common system, no problems should arise. But when it comes to implementing such a system, none of us wants to give up the customs, traditions, religions and social and economic orders which characterise our own nations. And when Russia, with her supposed knowledge of what is best for the world, tries to force a nation to adopt the universal system, what happens? The remaining individualistic countries flock to assist the victim, prepared to battle to the death in order to maintain the differences which cause all the trouble in the first place and which they fondly call "liberty".

So we are faced with a very big problem. We all want to live in a quiet orderly world, and we all want to keep to our own way of life and get the best for ourselves. Can these objects be co-existent? Obviously they cannot!

If we are honest with ourselves we'll admit that we just don't want to be worried with looking through the other fellow's eyes. In Australia we cluck sympathetically at the thought of starving millions in overcrowded countries to the north, we even patronisingly raise funds for temporary relief, yet we make sure they don't get any ideas about coming to use some of our land to grow food for themselves. On the other hand, it is natural for our neighbours to cast their eyes around for some place to take the overflow of their population, and they can quite understandably see no valid reason why they should be barred from a sparsely populated agricultural continent lying almost next door.

The same differences of opinion are clashing among other countries all over the world. Each nation is bickering, arguing, finding fault, with the rest of the world, because each is intent on its own outlook.

There isn't any solution. Unless anyone can think of one, then I think it's time we began to get out our tin hats and atom bombs. And don't think that one day the world will suddenly be set right by a "war to end wars" - if any of us survive the next, then there'll be another war, then another, till we've all gone. It's a dismal picture. Maybe we'd better stop thinking, and talk about the weather!

Anon.

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### S T U D E N T S ' R E V E L

The S.R.C. will hold an End of Term revel in the Main Hall on the evening of ~~Friday~~ Friday, August 7th. There'll be fun and games for everyone so come along and enjoy yourselves before starting your vacation swotting! Watch noticeboards for further details.

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DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The C.U.C. Dramatic Society meeting last week was devoted mainly to discussion of the Constitution of the Society. This lasted for some considerable time but eventually the draft Constitution was accepted in toto. It was somewhat disappointing that not enough members were present to hold the planned play-reading but the weather that night was most inclement and future meetings should see bigger gatherings. It was decided to hold a play-reading once a month, with members meeting every fortnight for rehearsals and discussion of current business. Professor Hope and Dr. Todd attended the meeting and their cooperation and general helpfulness is greatly appreciated by members. Future meetings are to be held every second Thursday.

WANTED = A PEN FRIEND

A request for a pen friend has been received from a student of Karachi University, who is anxious to correspond in English with Canberra students of either sex. Details are -

Name: Shoukat Ali Khan  
 Address: 90 Hyderabad Colony,  
 "Clayton Road",  
 Room No. 5,  
 KARACHI. Pakistan  
 Age: 24 years  
 Hobbies: Reading, photography, movies, literature, music and radio.

EDITORIAL

There has been much discussion lately on the question of whether or not compulsory unionism should be introduced into Australia. Protagonists of the policy argue that all workers benefit by the achievements of the Unions in obtaining pay increases, shorter hours, better working conditions and so on. It cannot be denied that there is something in this argument although there have been times within recent memory when Unionists were able to obtain advantages over their non-unionist fellow workers in certain matters, for instance in over-time pay.

It seems to us, however, that the crucial point in this matter is the "compulsory" aspect. Australia is, supposedly, one of the "free democratic nations" of the world. While it is recognised and accepted that freedom must stop where license begins, in this country we are at least still free to do certain things if we want to, and one of those things is to join or abstain from joining a trade union. This is a right which must be preserved. Most people do join unions, others join them only when they think they might be able to get some benefit from membership, but to make it mandatory for all would-be workers to join any organization before they can accept employment is a negation of one of the principles dear to the hearts of most Australians. If the Unions want bigger membership, then it is up to them to get it by attracting members, not by forcing them into the Unions at the point of a gun! Is not this one of the things that the Western world resents about Communism? Once upon a time the word "Totalitarian" was applied only to countries labouring under a political dictatorship - is Australia now to become a totalitarian country in the sense that its workers are dictated to by Unions? Trade Unions can be and often are a strong force for the good of the people but there is little virtue in forcing a man to have good done to him, if he doesn't want it. He may be the bigger fool for thinking in this way but, while it is desirable that the Trade Unions should be free to try to "educate" him, they must not be permitted to bring press gang methods to bear.

S.R.C. NOTES

The following matters were discussed at the monthly meeting of the S.R.C. which took place last week.

Footpaths and Lighting

Letters were received from the Registrar informing the S.R.C. that the Department of Works has been asked to provide improved footpaths and lighting in the streets around the new College premises.

Dramatic Club

Valerie Townshend, organiser of the Club, reported that the Dramatic Club had been well launched and was showing considerable promise. Reaction among students promises strong support for the Society's activities.

Music Club

It was decided to try to form a Music Club to provide a meeting ground for those interested in all types of music. If such a Club is formed, it will probably be able to obtain permission from the College to use the new radiogram and piano which will be located in the new Junior Common Room when this is completed.

Political Science Club

Efforts to form a Political Science Club have met with poor response and it was decided that the project must be abandoned for the time being. Anyone interested in this subject may like to know that a regional group of the Institute of Public Administration is to be launched in Canberra on 6th August, 1953, by a provisional Committee comprising members of the Universities and the Public Service.

Dances

A report on the first dance for this year, held at Turner on 3rd July, revealed that the venture had been a great success, financially and socially. Costs were covered and the large number of people who attended seemed to enjoy themselves. It was decided to hold further dances at Turner, the next to be an "End of Term Affair" (in four weeks time only, by the way!)

Film Evenings

Another film evening is to be held in about a fortnight, provided that suitable films can be obtained at less than impossible prices.

Woroni

The problem of printing this paper was discussed again but the cost is likely to be so high that, unless more money can be obtained, from fees or perhaps from advertising, it will probably have to remain a dream.

Table Tennis and Tennis

It was decided to write to the Sports Council and suggest that something should be done about using the table tennis table in the Hall and about arranging for students to use the YWCA Courts opposite the College.